

SENATE RESOLUTION 195

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Eric and Jo Ann Maupin upon being named Tennessee Young Farmers of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as agricultural leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, two such noteworthy people are Eric and Jo Ann Maupin of Dyersburg, who were recently honored as the Tennessee Young Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, this great honor, awarded for demonstrating agriculture acumen, leadership skills, and community involvement, is pursued annually in competition by a multitude of farmers across the state; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the recognition and publicity that attends this award, Mr. and Mrs. Maupin were awarded the use of a new Case IH Magnum 245 tractor for a period of one year, a \$16,000 Kubota all-terrain vehicle, \$1,500 cash, and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Convention, where they were named the National Young Farmers of the Year Runners-Up; and

WHEREAS, Eric Maupin was born thirty-four years ago to Larry and Joan Maupin, who instilled in him time-honored values and principals at an early age; and

WHEREAS, always possessing a keen interest in and passion for agriculture, Mr. Maupin was elected Vice-President of the Tennessee FFA during his senior year at Dyer County High School and earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business and a minor in Communications from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1997; and

WHEREAS, with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Eric Maupin spent the summer of 1996 studying agriculture at Kings College in London and touring six European countries to learn about raising beef cattle; and

WHEREAS, the Maupin family maintains a highly diversified, 1,730-acre farming operation which produces corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, sunflowers, and pumpkins and includes an impressive commercial beef cattle operation with 120 head of cattle; and

WHEREAS, with his brilliant oratory prowess and commanding presence, Mr. Maupin became an auctioneer in 1999, originally working with local fund-raisers and now lending his considerable talents to Fisher Realty and Auction in Dyersburg; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished leader in the farming community, Mr. Maupin is a member of the Memphis-based 25 Farmer Network, which is designed to find new profitable biomass products and alternative crops for Tennessee and has specifically targeted sunflowers, canola, switchgrass, and even cane sorghum; and

WHEREAS, Eric Maupin has rendered sterling service in membership to several agricultural organizations, including serving as president of the Tennessee Soybean Association, chairman of the State Young Farmers and Ranchers, and member of the Dyer County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the Dyer County Fair Board of Directors, and the Tennessee Farm Bureau State Resolutions Committee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. and Mrs. Maupin won second place in the Tennessee Young Farmer of Year competition last year; and

WHEREAS, Eric and Jo Ann Maupin's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for their family, friends, and the good people of Dyersburg who are deeply proud of this remarkable young couple and their many triumphs; and

WHEREAS, their many accomplishments aside, Eric and Jo Ann Maupin are most appreciative of the love and support they share with each other and their beautiful daughter, Cara; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Maupin are people of true character and commitment, exemplifying dedication and leadership; they are admired by their fellow Tennesseans for their

tireless efforts to excel, not only in their farming practices but also in the actions of their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the work of men and women such as Eric and Jo Ann Maupin, Tennessee's farms and ranches enjoy a reputation for exceptional quality and productivity, and for their many contributions to this reputation, the Maupins should be applauded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Eric and Jo Ann Maupin upon their selection as the Tennessee Young Farmers of the Year, thank them for their meritorious service to Tennessee's agricultural community, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.